

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

App. No. : 10/506,493 Confirmation No. 1583
Applicant : Akihiko Namba, et al.
Filed : September 3, 2004
T.C./A.U. : 1722
Examiner : Robert M. Kunemund
Docket No. : 039.0045
Customer No. : 29453

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

This constitutes an Information Disclosure Statement pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. The attached documents listed on the accompanying "IDS List of References" (a substitute for Form PTO/SB/08) are hereby brought to the Examiner's attention in the patent application identified above.

REMARKS

The presently submitted references were cited in a communication from the European Patent Office in a counterpart application. Among the references, Cite No. F1 is not in English.

Concise Explanation of Relevance/Copy of Translation **Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)**

As a concise explanation of the relevance of Cite No. F1, and for the Examiner's reference regarding the relevance of the other of the presently submitted references, a copy of the European Search Report accompanies this paper.

In addition, the EPO has attached to Cite No. F1 an English abstract—available through Patent Abstracts of Japan on the Japanese Patent Office Web site—of the reference.

STATEMENT AS SPECIFIED IN 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

The undersigned hereby states that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 3 months prior to the filing of this statement.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider this reference, and to indicate so on the accompanying IDS List of References and make the document of record in the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

March 7, 2007

/James Judge/

James W. Judge
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